

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

1 – 20 (canceled)

21. (New) A system for providing a telephone service in a digital subscriber loop environment, the system comprising:

a signal digitizer capable of receiving traffic from one or more signal splitters, said signal digitizer converting an analog signal into a digital signal in a first format in the event of a failure at a customer site, said first format being an ATM-compatible format; and

said signal digitizer coupling the digital signal in the first format to an ATM switch connected to a telco switch.

22. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein the telephone service is a POTS, said signal digitizer comprising a POTS digitizer.

23. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein the analog signal is coupled to the signal digitizer via telephone wires.

24. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein said failure at the customer site is a power failure.

25. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein said signal digitizer is connected between said one or more signal splitters and said ATM switch.

26. (New) A method for providing fault tolerant telephone service in a digital subscriber loop (DSL) environment, comprising the steps of:

receiving an analog telephone signal;

detecting a fault at a customer site;

bypassing a DSL modem upon detection of the fault;

routing the analog telephone signal to a signal digitizer; and

coupling the digital signal in a first format to an ATM switch connected to a telco switch.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the telephone service is a POTS.
28. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the detected fault is a power failure at the customer site.
29. (New) A system for providing POTS telephone service in a digital subscriber loop (DSL) environment, the system having a customer premise equipment (CPE), a plurality of customer telephones connected to the CPE, and at least one POTS splitter connected to the CPE and adapted to connect the CPE to a service provider's DSL network, the system comprising:
a POTS digitizer capable of receiving traffic from the at least one POTS splitter, said POTS digitizer converting an analog signal into a digital signal in a first format in the event of a failure at a customer site, said first format being an ATM-compatible format, said POTS digitizer coupling the digital signal in the first format to an ATM switch within the service provider's DSL network.
30. (New) The system according to claim 29, wherein said POTS digitizer is connected between said at least one POTS splitter and said ATM switch.